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there appeared on page 28, the following statement: “* * in America the friends of paleolithic man have with few exceptions deserted the proposition as an unsupportable theory.”

Without raising any discussion upon the theory of the paleolithic age in America, I desire to enter my protest against the correctness of the foregoing conclusion.

There may be those who believe the existence of a paleolithic period in America is not yet proved; who only believe in its probability and do not reject the evidence cited in its favor; but of all those thus classed, I know of none who “have deserted the proposition as an unsupportable theory.”

Respectfully,

THOMAS WILSON.

The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, Jan. 30th, 1895.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Boston Society of Natural History.—April 17th.—The following paper was read: Prof. William Libbey, Jr., “Two Months in Greenland;” stereopticon views were shown.

May 1st.—The reports of the Curator, Secretary, Librarian, Treasurer and Trustees were read, also the report of the Walker Prize Committee. The election of officers for 1895–96 was held. The following paper was read: Mr. J. L. Tilton, “On the Geology of the Southwestern Part of the Boston Basin.”

May 15th.—The following papers were read: Prof. Thomas Dwight, “Notes on the Dissection of a Chimpanzee, with Especial Reference to the Brain.” Prof. N. S. Shaler, “The Conditions of Escape of Gases from the Interior of the Earth.”—SAMUEL HENSHAW, *Secretary*.

Academy of Science of St. Louis.—April 15th.—Miss Mary E. Murtfeldt presented a paper on “The Habits of Certain Seed-Feeding Insects.”—A. W. DOUGLAS, *Recording Secretary*.

American Philosophical Society.—April 19th.—Dr. D. G. Brinton read a paper on the “Proto-historic Ethnography of Western Asia.”

May 17th.—Dr. D. G. Brinton read an obituary notice of the late Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger. Mr. R. Meade Bache made a few remarks on "Personal Equation." Prof. E. D. Cope read a paper on "The Pamunkey Formation of the Chesapeake Region and its Fauna." Mr. J. G. Rosengarten read an obituary notice of the late Prof. Henry Coppée.

Proceedings of the Natural Science Association of Staten Island.—Dec. 8th, 1894.—Mr. Walter C. Kerr exhibited numerous maple leaves injured by storm and read the following:

Survival of Storm-Injured Leaves—During the last summer it was frequently remarked that the late spring frosts had seriously injured the young foliage, several gentlemen having commented upon the damage thus wrought to their shade trees. My attention was first attracted, on May 27th, to the wilted appearance of the leaves of a white oak on Richmond terrace, near Stuyvesant place, and later to the similar condition of the Norway maples on DeKalb street. A search for parasitic fungi as the cause revealed nothing, and it was not until a gardener suggested the wind that the true explanation appeared. This, perhaps, should have been more apparent, although few seem to have suspected the real cause. The damage was so general that it contributed a conspicuous feature to our summer's foliage throughout our eastern and southern exposures, as has already been incidentally mentioned in the Proceedings for October in connection with the effects upon the Cicadas.

The storm, which lasted several days, began on May 20th, and the trees then in foliage all suffered more or less, the extent of damage seeming to be proportional to the size of the leaves. The white oaks and the maples having the largest leaves at that season, were lashed and bruised in a somewhat interesting, if not remarkable, manner. Fruit trees were also considerably injured. Few, if any, leaves were killed. They seem rather to have been injured in spots, chiefly at the tips, though also along the edges and through the blades of the leaves, extending inward from the sinuses, withering at these points while the remainder of the surface was unharmed. Some were split radially along their weakest sections, withering on the edges of the split. In some, over three-fourths of the surface was killed, the shape, however, being preserved intact, the other fourth remaining green and healthy. It is difficult to describe their appearance, but the specimens submitted will indicate the peculiar way in which they were affected by the injury. The general appearance of the trees has been too common all summer

to require special comment. Similar injuries are reported by Mr. William T. Davis and Mr. Charles W. Leng, as observed, especially on the leaves of oaks and maples, at Newfoundland, N. J., where a high ridge furnishes opportunity for exposure.

With easterly storms so prevalent on our coast, it is strange to find so conspicuous a result from a storm possessing no unusual characteristics, and the simplest explanation would obviously be that it occurred just at a time when many leaves were sufficiently young and tender to receive the injury, yet old enough to survive it—a combination that might not often occur.

Mr. Wm. T. Davis exhibited specimens of dragon-flies and read the following:

Two Additions to the Local List of Dragon-flies.—The dragon-fly, *Libellula axillena* Westwood, form *vibrans*, was quite numerous last August in various parts of the island, both near ponds and in woodland. If persistently disturbed, they often flew into the highest trees. The first one was seen on August 4th in the valley of Reed's basket-willow swamp. In capturing it the abdomen was knocked off, and the remainder of the insect, true to what I afterward found to be the custom of the species, flew into a tree. Several missiles induced it to change this perch for a less elevated one, and it was finally placed in the cyanide bottle. Previous to the summer of 1894, this dragon-fly had not been seen on the island, and it is an interesting fact that it eventually came in such numbers.

Two small specimens of *Diplax semicincta* Say, were taken on the 15th of last July at the small ponds of the old iron mines near Four Corners. This locality is also the only one on the island where *Nan-nothemis bella* Uhler has been found.

With these two additions, the species belonging to the sub-family *Libellulinae*, so far collected on the island, number twenty-two. Mr. Calvert reports but twenty-four species from the vicinity of Philadelphia.

Minor Notes.—Mr. Arthur Hollick reported that an opossum was captured on December 6th, at New Dorp, by Mr. Richard Britton. It was found in a shallow burrow in the ground, near the foundation walls of an old ruined house, and was easily unearthed. The animal was killed and has been sent to a taxidermist for mounting. From the appearance of the locality, Mr. Britton is of the opinion that a colony of the animals is living there.

Mr. Wm. T. Davis exhibited a small Indian stone paint pot, recently found at Tottenville. This is the first utensil of the kind reported from any of the collections made on the island.

Mr. Davis also exhibited a large yellow gravel pebble, consisting of a mass of silicified coral (probably an *Eridophylum*) found by Mr. Trigg on the shore at Eltingville.

March 9th, 1895.—Mr. Fred. F. Hunt read the following paper, illustrated by samples of the articles mentioned and tubes containing the tests made:

Arsenic in Wall Paper and Hangings.—Having had occasion lately to test some wall papers and hangings for arsenic, it may interest our members to know of the results obtained.

These tests were made on account of sickness, apparently a case of poisoning, which could not be traced to any cause. On finding that all the rooms in the house, except one, had arsenical wall paper, and also that some curtains and furniture covering carried arsenic, the doctor attributed the illness to that cause, and this view seems to have been borne out by the recovery of the patients on the removal of the arsenical materials.

The house is an old one, on this island, and some of the rooms had four papers on the walls. For testing, the papers were taken off to the plaster, and one test made of all the papers that were in one room together, so I am unable to say which carried the arsenic. The test used was the "Marsh test." All the rooms in the house that were papered, except one, and also the hallways, carried arsenic in larger or smaller quantities, some tests requiring the gas to be passed for ten minutes before showing the arsenic mirror, while others showed it after a few seconds, and one test gave the largest amount I have found in any wall paper.

It is generally supposed that a paper must have green in it to carry arsenic, but that is not so, as I have found it in nearly all colors; one ceiling paper, which has a ground of very light yellow with a gilt pattern on it, carried notable quantities of arsenic, while other papers that were different shades of green, carried none; in fact, my experience has been that the browns, reds, yellows and grays are the most likely colors to carry arsenic.

The cartridge papers do not carry arsenic, as far as my experience goes, even if there is a pattern printed on them. This may be due to its being a comparatively modern wall paper, and the manufacturers having found that of late years there has been more or less agitation on the subject of arsenic in wall papers, are more careful in the pigments they use.

A set of red-brown colored chenille curtains in this same house gave a very marked mirror of arsenic, although they had been in use for

some time in another house; a jute-velour furniture covering, color old rose, also gave the arsenical mirror, and a crêtonne of a black ground with light colored figures and pattern was highly charged with arsenic, even after several years' use as curtains, indicating that use does not eliminate the arsenic. Tests were made of 60 pieces of lately imported English crêtonnes, and only 20 pieces were found to be free of arsenic. In Germany and, of late years, in France, there are laboratories supported by the government, where anyone may take a substance believed to be injurious to health, to be tested free of charge, and, as there is a punishment for selling any such substance, fabrics from these countries are very likely to be free from deleterious matter.

There are two ways in which the arsenic may be disseminated in the air, first, by a chemical action forming arseniuretted hydrogen, which readily comes through any paper that may cover the arsenical one; second, a purely mechanical action, where the arsenical paper is outside, by the pigment or sizing, drying and being carried off as a powder and breathed—both these actions may be taking place with an arsenical outside paper.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

The Eighth Session of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Hole, Massachusetts, will last from June 1 to October 1, 1895. The laboratory is under the general charge of Prof. C. O. Whitman, Director, and Prof. H. C. Bumpus, Assistant Director.

Instruction will be given by the following staff: Howard Ayers, E. G. Conklin, S. Watasé, M. M. Metcalf, C. M. Child, F. R. Lillie, O. S. Strong, H. S. Brode, W. M. Rankin, J. L. Kellogg, P. A. Fish, A. D. Mead, H. E. Walter, W. A. Setchell, W. J. V. Osterhout, Jacques Loeb, W. N. Norman.

There will also be evening lectures on biological subjects of general interest. Among those who may contribute these lectures may be mentioned, in addition to the instructors above named, the following: G. F. Atkinson, E. G. Conklin, J. M. Coulter, A. E. Dolbear, Simon Flexner, E. O. Jordan, William Libbey, Jr.; F. S. Lee, W. A. Locy, J. M. Macfarlane, C. S. Minot, E. S. Morse, H. F. Osborn, W. B. Scott, W. T. Sedgwick, William Trelease, S. Watasé, E. B. Wilson, B. G. Wilder, W. P. Wilson.